

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed April 20, 2005, the Examiner noted that claims 1 – 17 were pending, and rejected claims 1 – 17. Claims 1, 10 – 11, 14 have been amended, claims 2 – 9, 12 – 13 and 15 – 17 have been cancelled, new claims 18 – 25 have been added and, thus, in view of the forgoing claims 1, 10, 11, 14, and 18 – 25 remain pending for reconsideration which is requested. No new matter has been added. The Examiner's rejections are traversed below.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112:

In the Office Action, at page 2, numbered paragraphs, 3 – 4, claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for the reasons set forth therein. This rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claim 15 has been cancelled without prejudice.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102:

In the Office Action, at pages 2 – 7, numbered paragraph 6, claims 1 – 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 in view of Anodide et al. European Patent Application No. 0 869 433 A2 (hereinafter "Anodide"). This rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Claims 2 – 9, 12 – 13 and 15 – 17 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, 10, 11, and 14 recite "wherein the test support class has a function of supporting input of input test data, by displaying on the screen a menu of a test data and its attribute according to the test specification, and embedding the test data instructed by an operator in an input field on the screen".

The present invention is directed towards a supporting apparatus for conducting testing of a GUI system program by: generating a testing process, executing the testing process, and reporting results of execution of the testing process. For example, in one embodiment, there are a test specification generation device 16 (Present Application Fig. 9) and a test data-providing device (Present Application Fig. 10). The test specification generation device 16 generates test specifications, and the test data providing device enters various data pieces into relevant entry spaces provided respectively for entry requiring types of data by presenting to a user a test data entry menu prepared for each of these types of entry data accordingly to the test specifications and letting the user select a desired piece of entry data from the test data entry menu.

The test specification generation device 16, further, incorporates into the test specifications a test item space or a contents-of-test space for each, such as employee number, of the selected types of entry data. (Present Application Figs. 9 & 21) The test item space is to

indicate whether the value entered under an associated type of entry data is a normal value or an abnormal value, and the contents-of-test space is to indicate an attribute value assigned to the value entered under an associated type of entry data and presenting an attribute aspect of the entered value of concern, such as an indication of it being a maximum or minimum of a permissible range for the associated type of entry data. The test data providing device generates test data input information accordingly to the test specification and displays testing data pieces in spaces under relevant types of entry data in parallel to the associated attributes. (Present Application, test data input information 40 in Figs. 10 & 21, and Fig. 23). As result of having this form of table being displayed, it becomes possible for a user (a testing operator) to select data used for conducting a test while understanding implications of the selected data for the test. Once a test is completed for a set of test data that has been selected by a user, this set of test data is removed from the test data entry menu so that occurrence of an unnecessary repeat of a same test is avoided, and the efficiency of testing is improved (Present Application, S25 of the Fig. 24).

In contrast, the cited portions of Anodide that the Examiner relied on in his 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of claims 1 – 17 teach a testing operator having the ability to: access possible input data, and select or alter test data. The Anodide reference does not teach any further specifics. Fig. 7 of the Anodide reference teaches a data variation window but it does not teach any entry comparable to the present invention. More specifically, Fig. 7 does not teach anything comparable to the attribute associated with any piece of employed test data indicating, for instance, whether a piece of test data is normal or abnormal, or which of a maximum, minimum value or something else the piece of the test data represents. Claims 1, 10, 11, and 14 recite "wherein the test support class has a function of supporting input of input test data, by displaying on the screen a menu of a test data and its attribute according to the test specification, and embedding the test data instructed by an operator in an input field on the screen". Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 10, 11, and 14 are patentably distinguishable over the prior art.

Claims 18 – 25 depend from claims 1, 10, 11, and 14, and include all the features of their respective parents plus additional features not taught or suggested by the prior art. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 18 – 25 are patentably distinguishable over the prior art.

CONCLUSION:

It is submitted that the claims satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 112. It is further submitted that the claims are not taught, disclosed or suggested by the prior art. The claims are therefore in a condition suitable for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is requested.

If any further fees, other than and except for the issue fee, are necessary with respect to this paper, the U.S.P.T.O. is requested to obtain the same from deposit account number 19-3935.


Respectfully submitted,

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